

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLOTTE DIVISION  
CIVIL ACTION NO: 3:14-CV-440-RJC-DSC**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| SHAWN DEMONT COLLINS, | ) |
|                       | ) |
| Plaintiff,            | ) |
|                       | ) |
| v.                    | ) |
|                       | ) |
| LINDA BUDAY, et. al., | ) |
|                       | ) |
| Defendants.           | ) |

**MEMORANDUM AND RECOMMENDATION  
AND ORDER**

**THIS MATTER** is before the Court following the pro se Plaintiff's failure to respond to the Court's "Order to Show Cause" (document #15) entered November 10, 2014, and Defendants' "Motion to Dismiss" (document #7) filed October 20, 2014.

Plaintiff's response was due on November 6, 2014. On November 10, 2014, in an attempt to give Plaintiff every opportunity to prosecute his claims, the Court entered an "Order to Show Cause" (document #15). The Court ordered that:

On or before December 10, 2014, Plaintiff shall **SHOW CAUSE** why the Complaint should not be **DISMISSED** for failure to prosecute this action. Plaintiff is warned that failure to make a timely response to this Order to Show Cause may result in **DISMISSAL** of this lawsuit **WITH PREJUDICE**.

Document #15 at 2. Plaintiff has not responded to the Court's Order or requested additional time to respond.

A District Court has the inherent authority to dismiss a case for failure to prosecute, and Rule 41(b) "provides an explicit basis for this sanction." Doyle v. Murray, 938 F.2d 33, 34 (4th

Cir. 1991). Since dismissal is a severe sanction, the District Court must exercise this power with restraint, balancing the need to prevent delays with the sound public policy of deciding cases on their merits. Dove v. CODESCO, 569 F.2d 807, 810 (4th Cir. 1978). The Fourth Circuit requires a trial court to consider four factors before dismissing a case for failure to prosecute: “(1) the plaintiff’s degree of personal responsibility; (2) the amount of prejudice caused the defendant; (3) the presence of a drawn out history of deliberately proceeding in a dilatory fashion; and (4) the effectiveness of sanctions less drastic than dismissal.” Hillig v. Comm’r of Internal Revenue, 916 F.2d 171, 174 (4th Cir. 1990).

Applying those legal principles, the undersigned concludes that dismissal for failure to prosecute is the appropriate remedy for Plaintiff’s failure to respond to the Court’s Order and Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss. Given Plaintiff’s decision to abandon his claims for all practical purposes, there is no reason to believe that any less severe sanction would be effective.

### **ORDER**

**IT IS ORDERED** that all further proceedings in this action, including all discovery, are **STAYED** pending the District Judge’s ruling on this Memorandum and Recommendation and Order.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS**, the undersigned respectfully recommends that Defendants’ “Motion to Dismiss” (document #7) be **GRANTED** and that the Complaint be **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.


### **NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS**

The parties are hereby advised that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1)(c), written objections to the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law and the recommendation contained in this Memorandum must be filed within fourteen (14) days after service of same. Failure to file objections to this Memorandum with the District Court constitutes a waiver of the right to de novo review by the District Judge. Diamond v. Colonial Life, 416 F.3d 310, 315-16 (4th Cir. 2005); Wells v. Shriners Hosp., 109 F.3d 198, 201 (4th Cir. 1997); Snyder v. Ridenour, 889 F.2d 1363, 1365 (4th Cir. 1989). Moreover, failure to file timely objections will also preclude the parties from raising such objections on appeal. Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 147 (1985); Diamond, 416 F.3d at 316; Page v. Lee, 337 F.3d 411, 416 n.3 (4th Cir. 2003); Wells, 109 F.3d at 201; Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841, 845-46 (4th Cir. 1985); United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91 (4th Cir. 1984).

The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Memorandum and Recommendation and Order to the parties' counsel; and to the Honorable Robert J. Conrad, Jr.

**SO ORDERED AND RECOMMENDED.**

Signed: December 22, 2014

  
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David S. Cayer  
United States Magistrate Judge

